

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 /136 W

----- 042181

O R 281105 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3291

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL FRANCE

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

CDRUSMACV

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 7/13 AF

CDR 7 TH RRFS RAMASUN THAI

CDR 7 ACCS KORAT

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECACTS BKK

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

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CDR JCRC NKP
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2296

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; MACV FOR COMMAND CENTER AND J3 08; 7/13 AF,
432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO.

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 28

REF: VIENTIANE 2274

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - LOW LEVEL OF GROUND/ AIR ACTION
CONTINUED DURING PERIOD 26-27 MARCH, WITH ONE MAJOR INCIDENT
REPORTED SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK AND EIGHT MINOR CLASH/ SHELLINGS
SCATTERED ELSEWHERE. ALL ELEVEN RLAF T-28 SORTIES WERE IN
SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT ON 27 MARCH. NO ARTILLERY EXPENDI-
TURES WERE REPORTED ON 25 MARCH. POLITICAL - LPF ACCUSES RLG AND
USG OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. AEROFLOT INCREASES VIENTIANE- HANOI
FLIGHTS TO TWO WEEKLY. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I - CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED.

B. MR II: ONLY INCIDENT WAS VERY LIGHT SHELLING OF BOUAM LONG
OUTPOST NORTH OF PDJ ON 27 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW
NO STRIKE SORTIES.

C. MR III: ONE MAJOR AND FIVE MINOR INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED.
FRIENDS INITIATED COMPANY- SIZE CLASH AFTERNOON 26 MARCH (0630 Z),
AND ENEMY RESPONDED WITH OVER 100 ROUNDS MORTAR FIRE, APPROX 24
KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK NEAR WE 000087 (TWO ENEMY KBA BY RLAF).
THERE WERE ALSO ONE MINOR CLASH SOUTH OF THAKHEK AND ONE MINOR
SHELLING SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK ON 27 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES).
(COMMENT: FRIENDS HAVE OSTENSIBLY SECURED PORTIONS OF TERRITORY
AND POPULATION SOUTH OF THAKHEK BY INJECTING INFANTRY UNITS INTO
AREA OF LONG- TIME ENEMY INFLUENCE; OTHER ELEMENTS ARE MOVING TO
CONSOLIDATE FURTHER CONTROL OF AREA ENCOMPASSED BY MEKONG RIVER,
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ROUTE 13 AND XE (RIVER) BANG FAI. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT

SENIOR RLG AND FAR OFFICIALS HAVE INSTRUCTED THE THAKHEK COMMANDER TO REDUCE SOMEWHAT OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AND ABIDE BY THE CEASEFIRE. THIS HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN THE RECENT DECREASE IN FREQUENCY OF INCIDENTS. END COMMENT) ELSEWHERE, THERE WZIE TWO MINOR CLASHES NORTH AND NORTHWEST OF DONG HENE ON 26 AND 27 MARCH AND ONE SHELLING SOUTHEAST OF KENGKOK ON 26 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW EIGHT T-28 SORTIES ON 27 MARCH AND ONE AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIE PREVIOUS NIGHT, ALL IN SUPPORT OF FOREGOING CONTACTS.

D. MR IV: ONLY INCIDENTS WERE TWO MINOR CLASHES SOUTH OF SOUKHUMA ON 26 MARCH AND NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE ON 27 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES). SOME 600 CIVILIANS HAVE MOVED CLOSER TO KHONG SEDONE AS LOW- LEVEL FIGHTING CONTINUED FARTHER TO THE NORTHEAST. RLAF FLEW THREE T-28 SORTIES, ALL AGAINST ENEMY MORTAR POSITION NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE.

E. MR V: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED.

F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED 14 ADDITIONAL ENEMY VIOLATIONS, BRINGING TOTAL TO 314 AS OF MORNING 25 MARCH. (COMMENT: OQK COUNT OF GROUN ACTIONS INITIATED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWS 71 MAJOR AND 410 MINOR INCIDENTS THROUGH 24 MARCH. END COMMENT)

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. LPF HAS IN RECENT DAYS HIT MORE STRIDENT TONES IN ACCUSING BOTH RLG AND USG OF VIOLATING CEASEFIRE. PARTICULARLY TRUCULENT (AND UNFOUNDED) ARE CHARGES MADE BY LPF REP IN YESTERDAY' S JOINT RESEARCH GROUP MEETING AND BY RADIO PATHET LAO IN RECENT BROADCASTS REGARDING US BOMBING VIOLATIONS. (COMMENT: SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IS YET UNCLEAR BUT MAYBE TRYING ESTABLISH JUSTIFICATION FOR INITIATING MAJOR GROUND ACTIONS. END COMMENT)

B. OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE, MARCH 28, CARRIED ADVERTISEMENT ANNOUNCING THAT, BEGINNING APRIL 1, AEROFLOT PLANS TWO FLIGHTS WEEKLY (THURSDAY AND SATURDAY) TO HANOI AND RETURN.

C. BOTH VIENTIANE DAILIES EDITORIALIZED MARCH 28 THAT THE DELAY IN THE FORMATION OF A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT IN LAOS HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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ORDERED BY HANOI. THEY CHARGED THAT NORTH VIETNAM IS NOT YET READY TO STOP USING LAO TERRITORY AS A SUPPLY ROUTE FOR ITS FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM.
GODLEY

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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EA
JAKARTA
MOSCOW
PARIS

PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC

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